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MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence  
SUBJECT : Hoover Commission

1. The Commission on Organization of the Executive Branch of the Government was established 10 July 1953. This Commission was intended to review the work of the old Hoover Commission and to go on from there to larger considerations of policy. Thus, the old Commission was limited to study of organization methods and administration, whereas the present Commission would go into additional considerations of whether the Government should be performing an activity and if so to what extent.

2. The Commission is directed to study all instrumentalities of the Government except the judiciary and the Congress. It is required to submit a comprehensive report by December 31, 1954, and a final report not later than May 31, 1955, at which date the Commission shall expire. The Commission may propose in its final report constitutional amendments, legislative enactments, and administrative actions it deems appropriate to carry out its recommendations. Otherwise, it has no power except power of subpoena of witnesses and documents and the right to require directly from Executive establishments all information, estimates, and statistics upon request of the Chairman or the Vice-Chairman.

3. There are 12 members of the Commission, 4 appointed by the President, 2 from the Executive Branch and 2 from private life; 4 by the President of the Senate, 2 from the Senate and 2 from private life; 4 by the Speaker of the House, 2 from the House and 2 from private life. Seven members make a quorum. The Commission can hire such staff as it needs.

4. The Commission has seven stated duties designed to promote economy, efficiency, and improved service in public business:

a. Recommending methods to reduce expenditures as far as may be consistent with efficient performance of functions.

- b. Eliminating duplicate functions.
- c. Consolidating functions of a similar nature.
- d. Abolishing activities not necessary to the efficient conduct of the Government.
- e. Eliminating nonessential services and activities competitive with private enterprise.
- f. Defining responsibilities of officials.
- g. Relocating in departments or other agencies those agencies now responsible directly to the President.

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LAWRENCE R. HOUSTON  
General Counsel